

cal trunk portion **1** having a predetermined length is formed, and a pair of joint portions **5** are integrally formed on the two ends of the trunk portion **1**, thereby constituting the hinge main body. The pair of joint portions **5** project from the two ends of the trunk portion **1** for a predetermined length in one direction perpendicular to the axis of the trunk portion **1**, so that the joint portions **5** and the trunk portion **1** form a bracket. First shaft projections **7** are formed on the proximal-side end faces, near the trunk portion **1**, of the joint portions **5** of the hinge main body to project for a predetermined length in the axial direction of the trunk portion **1** so as to fit in the predetermined portions of the protection cover **8** of the portable type electronic equipment. Second shaft projections **6** are formed on the distal-side end faces of the joint portions **5** to project for a predetermined length in a direction parallel to the axis direction of the trunk portion **1** so as to fit in the predetermined portions of the case **9** of the portable type electronic equipment.

As shown in FIG. **4**, concerning at least one shaft projection **7** formed on the proximal-side end face of the joint portion **5**, a circular hole **14** having a predetermined depth in the axial direction of the cylindrical portion, and a notch **11** extending to reach the inner wall of the circular hole **14** are formed near one end of the trunk portion **1** having a predetermined length. A spring **4** is inserted in the circular hole **14**, and thereafter a cylindrical slide shaft projection **7a** having a through hole **15** in its side surface is inserted in the circular hole **14**. The slide shaft projection **7a** has such a length that, when it is slid for a predetermined distance to the left (indicated by an arrow) in FIG. **4**, its projecting amount from the right end of the corresponding joint portion **5** becomes 0. When the slide shaft projection **7a** is slid in the direction of an arrow to decrease the projection amount to 0, the protection cover **8** can be mounted on/detached from the case **9**.

When a knob **3** is pressed into and fixed in the through hole **15** through the notch **11** to project upward for a predetermined length, the slide shaft projection **7a** constantly biased to the right in FIG. **4** by the spring **4** serves as a stopper as the knob **3** abuts against the outer circumferential end of the notch **11**. Therefore, the slide shaft projection **7a** will not drop from the circular hole **14**.

The projection amount of the slide shaft projection **7a** from the right end of the trunk portion **1** can be freely changed by operating the knob **3**.

In the hinge portion **18**, when the protection cover **8** is built into the case **9** in the closed state, projecting portions **16** directed radially downward are formed at least on the two outer shaft projections **6**, as shown in FIGS. **5A** and **5B**. The projecting portions **16** coincide with notches **10a** formed in elastic members **10** accommodated in the case **9**.

When opening the protection cover **8**, the hinge portion **18** pivots about the shaft projections **6** as the center such that the projecting portions **16** ride over the notches **10a** while elastically deforming the elastic members **10**. For this reason, the hinge portion **18** accepts a constant resistance. The positional relationship between the projecting portions **16** and the notches **10a** of the elastic members **10**, and the numbers of projecting portions **16** and notches **10a** may be freely set.

FIGS. **6A** and **6B** show a state wherein a portable type electronic equipment having the hinge structure of the

present invention is joined with a notebook (e.g., a system notebook) **20** having binder pawls **17**, in which FIG. **6A** is a plan view, and FIG. **6B** is a sectional view taken along the line VIB—VIB of FIG. **6A**.

In this case, the trunk portion **1**, and the joint portions **5** formed on the two ends of the trunk portion **1** must have dimensions as follows. More specifically, the length of the trunk portion **1** must fit with the length across the plurality of binder pawls, its outer diameter must fit with the inner size of the binder pawls **17**, and the width of the joint portions **5** must fit with the size between adjacent binder pawls.

FIG. **7A** is a partial front view of a hinge structure according to the second embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. **7B** is a partial detailed view of FIG. **7A**.

Referring to FIGS. **7A** and **7B**, in this second embodiment, a substantially dish-shaped elastic member **43** having a through hole **47** having a diameter larger than the outer diameter of the shaft projection **46** is built on at least one shaft projection **46** through its through hole **47** (see FIG. **7B**). Thereafter, the hinge is built into a case **42**. Since the elastic member **43** is elastically deformed, a hinge portion **44** is always biased to the right in FIG. **7A**.

What claim is:

1. A hinge structure for a portable type electronic equipment, for connecting a protection cover which protects a tablet type display and a substantially rectangular parallelepiped case which serves as an equipment main body with each other, comprising

a substantially cylindrical trunk portion having a predetermined length,

a pair of joint portions integrally formed on two ends of said trunk portion and projecting from said two ends of said trunk portion for a predetermined length in one direction perpendicular to an axis of said trunk portion so as to form a bracket together with said trunk portion, a pair of first shaft projections projecting from proximal-side end faces, near said trunk portion, of said pair of joint portions for a predetermined length outward in an axial direction of said trunk portion so as to fit in said protection cover, and

two pairs of second shaft projections projecting from distal-side end faces of said pair of joint portions for a predetermined length in a direction parallel to the axis of said trunk portion so as to fit in said case.

2. A hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said pair of first shaft projections that fit in said protection cover is slidable in an axial direction thereof to be able to project/retract, thereby enabling said protection cover to be mounted on/detached from said case.

3. A hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein at least two outer ones of said two pairs of second shaft projections have projecting portions integrally projecting radially downward.

4. A hinge structure according to claim 1, wherein said bracket is arranged and constructed for being joined with a notebook having binder pawls.

5. A combination of an electronic device, a protective cover for said device, a notebook for said device, and a hinge for selectively joining said device to one of said protective cover and said notebook;

said notebook comprising plural spaced apart and selectively opened pairs of binder pawls;